

## **WHAT IS CLAIMED**

1. A method of playing a gaming system played by a plurality of players where a jackpot is awarded, the method comprising:

5           players playing an underlying wagering game in which wagers are made by players;  
            when an outcome occurs in the underlying wagering game that identifies that a jackpot is  
to be awarded to at least one player, entering a special bonus event for at least all players  
presently playing the underlying wagering game; and  
            randomly awarding bonuses to some of the at least all players in addition to any awards  
10   the some of the at least all players may win during continued play of the underlying wagering  
game.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the underlying game is a casino table game.

15   3. The method of claim 1 wherein the underlying game is played on a slot-type wagering  
apparatus.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the slot-type wagering apparatus is a networked wagering  
apparatus.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the jackpot is a progressive jackpot.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the bonuses do not decrement the jackpot.

25   7. The method of claim 4 wherein the bonuses do not decrement the jackpot.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the bonuses do not decrement the jackpot.

9. The method of claim 3 wherein bonuses are awarded to more than one but less than all players.

5 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the player who received the jackpot may not participate in play for bonus awards.

11. The method of claim 4 wherein bonuses are awarded to more than one but less than all players.

10 12. The method of claim 5 wherein bonuses are awarded to more than one but less than all players.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein bonuses are awarded to more than one but less than all players.

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14. The method of claim 8 wherein bonuses are awarded to more than one but less than all players.

20 15. The method of claim 12 wherein the player who received the jackpot may not participate in play for bonus awards.

16. The method of claim 4 wherein the bonus is selected from the group consisting of immediate random bonus awards, immediate play bonus awards, mini-jackpot awards, free play awards, electronic game tickets, physical game tickets, and combinations thereof.

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17. The method of claim 8 wherein the bonus is selected from the group consisting of immediate random bonus awards, immediate play bonus awards, mini-jackpot awards, free play awards, electronic game tickets, physical game tickets, and combinations thereof.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein the bonus is selected from the group consisting of immediate random bonus awards, immediate play bonus awards, mini-jackpot awards, free play awards, electronic game tickets, physical game tickets, and combinations thereof.

5 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the bonus is selected from the group consisting of immediate random bonus awards, immediate play bonus awards, mini-jackpot awards, free play awards, electronic game tickets, physical game tickets, and combinations thereof.

10 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the bonus is selected from the group consisting of immediate random bonus awards, immediate play bonus awards, mini-jackpot awards, free play awards, electronic game tickets, physical game tickets, and combinations thereof.

21. . A method of playing a gaming system played by a plurality of players where a jackpot is awarded, the method comprising:

15       players playing an underlying wagering game in which wagers are made by players;  
          when an outcome occurs in the underlying wagering game that identifies that a jackpot is  
to be awarded to at least one player, entering a special bonus event for at least all players  
presently playing the underlying wagering game; and  
          randomly awarding bonuses to some of the at least all players in addition to any awards  
20 the some of the at least all players may win during continued play of the underlying wagering  
game, wherein the bonuses to some of the at least all players is based upon a progressive bonus  
jackpot.

21. The method of claim 21 wherein the jackpot is not a progressive jackpot.